

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicant amends Claims 1, 5, 14, 15, 17, and 19 and cancels Claim 16. Therefore, Claims 1, 3, 5-15, and 16-19 are all the claims currently pending in the present Application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner again indicates that claims 5-13, 17, and 18 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including the limitations of the claims from which they depend. With this Amendment, Applicant amends Claims 5 and 17 into independent form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of Claims 5-13, 17, and 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 3, 14-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuki (2002/0070991 A1) in view of Otsuki et al. (2002/0070994 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that Claim 16 is cancelled.

Applicant submits that Otsuki '991 fails to teach or suggest a sensor for detecting a medium. In Figure 16 of Otsuki '991, a predetermined number (2) of nozzles from among a plurality of nozzles (nozzle 1 and nozzle 2) are located in opposition to a groove (a downstream slot 26r) provided in a platen. After a final feed of the paper, printing is completed and all nozzles are disabled, thus making the predetermined number of nozzles from which liquid is

ejected equal to zero. Therefore, Otsuki '991 fails to teach or suggest decreasing the predetermined number, such that the predetermined number is never zero, as recited in Claims 1 and 19.

In Figure 40 of Otsuki '991, a predetermined number (2) of nozzles from among a plurality of nozzles (nozzle 7 and nozzle 8) are located in opposition to a groove (an upstream slot 26f) provided in a platen. After a final feed of the paper, printing is completed and all nozzles are disabled, which means that the predetermined number becomes zero.

Therefore, again, Otsuki '991 fails to teach or suggest decreasing the predetermined number, such that the predetermined number is never zero, as recited in Claims 1 and 19.

In the first embodiment of Otsuki '994, illustrated in Figure 14, a predetermined number (2) of nozzles from among a plurality of nozzles (nozzle 7 and nozzle 8) are located in opposition to a groove (an upstream slot 26f) provided in a platen. After a final feed of the paper, printing is completed and all nozzles are disabled, which means that the predetermined number of nozzles becomes zero. Therefore, Otsuki '994 fails to teach or suggest decreasing the predetermined number, such that the predetermined number is never zero, as recited in Claims 1 and 19.

In the second embodiment of Otsuki '994, as shown in Figure 21, a predetermined number (2) of nozzles from among a plurality of nozzles (nozzle 7 and nozzle 8) are located in opposition to a groove (an upstream slot 26f) provided in a platen. After a final feed of the paper, printing is completed and all nozzles are disabled, which means that the predetermined number becomes zero. Therefore, again, Otsuki '994 fails to teach or suggest decreasing the

predetermined number, such that the predetermined number is never zero, as recited in Claims 1 and 19.

Therefore, in view of at least the above, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 3, 14-16 and 19 are patentable over the cited combination of references and respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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